Loss in Punjab Roadways

1693. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Roadways, Nangal suffered loss of lakhs of rupees due to non-revision of fare as per Government's notification;

(b) whether according to the audit observation, ineffective internal control is responsible for this loss; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against the top management of the depot for this utter dereliction of duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discontinuation of the Calcutta-U.K. Shipping Line

1694. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main line service from Calcutta to U.K. by the Shipping Corporation of India has since been discontinued;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to discontinuation of the above line cargo previously passing through Calcutta port is now moving from Nhava Sheva Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) While Shipping Corporation of India has suspended its exclusive container services between East Coast of India and U.K./Continent since June, 1991, it has strengthened its combi service which caters to both break bulk and containerised trade between East Coast of India and U.K./Continent.

(b) Shipping Corporation of India decided to shift its exclusive container service to break leek-cum-container combi services because of the increase in losses suffered in operating exclusive container services over the years.

(c) According to information available with Government a consignment of 160 tea containers, emanating from Amingaon, moved recently *via* Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

Review of Cabotage Law

1695. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee appointed by the Government of India to review the Cabotage Law has recommended that the Madras and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Nhava Sheva) be exempted from the restrictions under Section 407 and 408 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958; and

(b) if so, what decision the Central Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, a policy decision has been taken by the Government to temporarily relax Cabotage restriction in favour of those foreign shipping lines which bring sizeable number of transhipment containers into the country. No firm offer has been received.